

fixing things, hunting, and skateboarding. He loved his wife, Laura, and their two young sons, Nolan and Ethan. Before departing for Afghanistan, he told his family that "the terrorists have to be stopped." Philip has made the ultimate contribution.

Those who knew Sgt. Svitak will remember him as a levelheaded and caring friend and father. Those of us who did not, will remember him as well, as a brave and dedicated soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice for a forever grateful nation.

We thank Sgt. Svitak for his service and his sacrifices. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and the families of other servicemen and women as they endure their loss of their loved ones who have been killed defending our freedom.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Madam President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of last year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred in September 1997 in Tulsa, OK. Two gay men were severely beaten after leaving a bar. After being arrested, the assailants told police they were "only rolling a couple of fags."

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

NOMINATION OF JOE SCHMITZ

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Madam President, I believe that the Department of Defense Inspector General position is among the most important in the Department, because the IG office is responsible for ensuring accountability and efficiency, and therefore is the heart of integrity in the Pentagon.

There have been numerous scandals in the IG office in the recent past, which has been rudderless, without a confirmed nominee for 3 years. With the IG office in disarray, there is the impression left that the Department is without proper and necessary oversight. I am also told that the IG office has been headless for some 10 years over the past couple of decades—which is a disgrace. Without strong leadership, direction and motivation, no office can function efficiently and effectively.

Secretary Rumsfeld needs an Inspector General. We are, after all, at war. Joe Schmitz was the choice of the Sec-

retary of Defense and the choice of President Bush for this important post. Mr. Schmitz is an individual with a strong background for the job, and with impeccable personal and professional credentials. I hope that we can move forward expeditiously with his nomination, now that it has been cleared both by the Armed Services Committee—by voice vote—and by the Government Affairs Committee.

Individuals who undergo the nomination process put their names and reputations on the line, opening themselves up to intense scrutiny of their past employment, their finances, their conduct and their associations. They fill out hundreds of documents. Mr. Schmitz has been held up for long enough—there are no ethical issues impacting his nomination, and he has received strong recommendations from those who know him and have worked with him, regardless of party affiliation.

I believe that Joe Schmitz was a superlative choice by Secretary Rumsfeld and President Bush, and that he will make an outstanding IG. The Senate needs to act now, to fill this important position at the Department of Defense and to give Secretary Rumsfeld the team he needs to do his job.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

WALTER JOHANNSEN

• Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the extraordinary service of Walter "Bud" Johannsen and the extraordinary dedication he has shown to the Lake George, MN community. It is extraordinary in its duration. It is extraordinary in its selflessness. And it is a wonderful example of community service at its best.

Week after week for the past forty years Bud Johannsen has been on call twenty four hours a day, seven days a week as a volunteer firefighter for the Lake George Volunteer Fire Department, the only fire department that services this peaceful north central community and its surrounding area. And week after week he has accepted the risks inherent in a job of this nature. Week after week. For forty years. Voluntarily. Without pay.

He has done this while maintaining a full-time job, raising a family and participating in community affairs. He has done this while demonstrating a positive attitude, a wonderful sense of humor and a willingness to lend a helping hand wherever and whenever needed.

That is dedication. That is the American spirit at its best.

Now I know that Bud Johannsen is not the first individual to ever volunteer his time. Nor will he be the last. But when I hear of such a milestone, 40 years as a volunteer firefighter, I feel the need to recognize and publicly thank that individual for his service,

especially in light of the events of September 11 when we saw all too clearly the sometimes tragic consequences of such courage and commitment.

So today I thank Walter "Bud" Johannsen. I thank his wife Kay and his daughter Tracy for sharing him with the Lake George community for so many years. And I thank all the members of the Lake George Volunteer Fire Department for the great work that they do. They are all truly inspiring.●

TRIBUTE TO DIANE RUMER

• Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, today I have the distinct honor of rising to share with my fellow colleagues the poetic work of Diane Rumer of Florence, Kentucky.

The tragic events of September 11 has affected us all in so many different ways. Some have lost loved ones. Some have sacrificed their lives to save others. And some have simply wept. We all have different methods of dealing with such tragic circumstances, and I personally have found a certain degree of solace in Diane Rumer's poem entitled *American Angel*. I am honored to share her work with you.

God Bless our country,
And all we hold dear:
Faith and our freedom,
And life without fear.
Guard her and guide her,
Protect her, we pray.
Send angels among us
To show us the way.

Every time I read these beautiful words, I find myself visualizing the American angels Diane so gracefully describes in her poem. I see a soldier fighting at home and abroad to rid the world of terrorism and oppression. I see a fireman racing into a burning building to save the life of a complete stranger. I see a blood donor. I see an aid worker. I see a family raising a flag in their front yard. After reading this, I realize there are angels surrounding us in every aspect of life, trying desperately to show us the way.

I would like to thank Diane for this inspirational piece. Her words are a truly a comfort in times of strife.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:42 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1870. An act to provide for the sale of certain real property within the Newlands Project in Nevada, to the city of Fallon, Nevada.

H.R. 1883. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a feasibility study on water optimization in the Burnt River basin, Malheur River basin, Owyhee River basin, and Powder River basin, Oregon.

H.R. 1963. An act to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the route taken by American soldier and frontiersman George Rogers Clark and his men during the